

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-11 cancelled.

12. (Currently Amended) Tail-lift for a vehicle, said tail-lift comprising:

a lifting mechanism for lifting and lowering a platform;

left and right side guiding rails on which the lifting mechanism is suspended with a left plate-shaped vertical carriage depending from each—the left guiding rail, and a right plate-shaped vertical array depending from the right guiding rail, each carriage the left and right carriages being slidably displaceable between a working position located behind the vehicle and a traveling position located below the vehicle;

left and right front guiding elements each with upper sliding members, each—the left front guiding element being attached into a recess of a—corresponding—the left carriage at a right angle to the left carriage and the right front guiding element being attached into a recess of the right carriage at a right angle to the right carriage, said recess—the recesses opening to a—top edge—edges of the corresponding carriage left and right carriages; and

left and right rear guiding elements, with lower sliding members, each—the left rear guiding element being attached into an opening of a—corresponding—the left carriage and disposed on the left carriage at a right angle—angle to the left carriage and the right rear guiding element being attached into an opening of the right

carriage and disposed on the right carriage at a right angle to the right carriage.

Claim 13 (cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) Tail-lift according to claim 12, wherein each front guiding element is tiltably disposed ~~in corresponding recesses of carriages and~~ is vertically displaceable ~~displaceable~~ with respect to the corresponding carriage.

15. (Currently Amended) Tail-lift according to claim 14, wherein each carriage comprises an abutment surface cooperating with ~~the~~ a sliding member of ~~the~~ a corresponding front guiding element, ~~said each~~ abutment surface being convexly curved ~~into the recess of the~~ carriage.

Claims 16-17 (cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) Tail-lift according to claim 12, wherein each rear guiding element is tiltably disposed in a corresponding ~~recesses of corresponding~~ carriage ~~carriages~~ opening and is vertically displaceable ~~displaceable~~ with respect to the corresponding carriage.

19. (Currently Amended) Tail-lift according to claim 12, wherein each carriage comprises an abutment surface ~~corresponding~~ cooperating with the sliding member of ~~the~~ a corresponding rear guiding element, ~~said each~~ abutment

surface being convexly curved ~~into the recess of the carriage.~~

20. (Currently Amended) Tail-lift according to claim 12, wherein the front and rear guiding ~~element~~ elements project beyond both sides of the carriage.

21. (Currently Amended) Tail-lift according to claim 12, wherein ~~the~~ a sliding member of the front and rear guiding elements ~~have~~ has a U-shaped cross-section.

22. (Currently Amended) Tail-lift according to claim 21, further comprising front sliding member carriers and rear sliding member carriers each having a U-shaped cross-section, each sliding member carrier and corresponding sliding member ~~//r//~~ being rotated by 90° with respect to one another ~~//r//~~ and ~~positively engage each other, over~~ abut one another over entire surfaces thereof.

23. (Currently Amended) Tail-lift according to claim 12, further comprising front and rear sliding member carriers ~~on which corresponding~~ for holding the upper and lower sliding members ~~are held~~ respectively.

24. (Currently Amended) Tail-lift according to claim 23, wherein the front sliding member carrier and the rear sliding member carrier each have a U-shaped ~~cross-sections~~ cross-section and the sliding member carriers and corresponding sliding members are, ~~being rotated by~~ disposed at 90° ~~//r//~~ with respect to one another and ~~positively engage each other, abut one another~~ over entire surfaces thereof.

Claims 25-29 (cancelled).